

**California Association of IB World Schools**  
**Information for IB Diploma and Career Program Schools**  
**University of California Admissions and ‘a-g’ Course Guide 2023**

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- IB Program Course list: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/details/4486>
- [www.cawsib.org](http://www.cawsib.org)

**Courses from California high schools and online schools used to satisfy the ‘a-g subject admission requirements must be approved by UC and appear on the institution’s ‘a-g’ course list.** To satisfy the ‘a-g’ subject requirements, the course must appear on the school’s course list for the year the student took the course.

The annual course submission period to add new courses and update your school ‘a-g’ list is:

- **Primary Phase: February 1 through June 30**
- **Supplementary Phase: August 1 through August 31.**
- For more information, please visit the Update your ‘a-g’ List page. <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/guide>

UC standards require that the courses be academically challenging, involving substantial reading, writing, problem solving and laboratory work (as appropriate), and show serious attention to analytical thinking, factual content and developing students’ oral and listening skills.

<b>Important Tasks for IB Schools</b>
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- IB DP, CP and MYP Coordinators are strongly encouraged to read and become familiar with the most current UC ‘a-g’ Guide, and with the ‘a-g’ requirements for UC admission. Work closely with your school and/or district list manager on your school’s ‘a-g’ Course Management Portal (CMP). This will be of great benefit to your students in the UC/CSU application and admission process.
- Add approved IB Organization Program courses to your school’s course lists [see below].
- Work with CAWS in advance to develop and submit any new IB Program courses your school will offer that are NOT on the IB Program course list. All new courses must be submitted through IB Americas/CAWS for approval on the IB Program course list. It is recommended that new courses be submitted to meet the Primary Phase deadline of **June 30.**

- Add or revise existing school courses if needed through your school's Course Management Portal. School courses will not be approved if the course title or curriculum includes IB.
- Archive any school or IB Organization courses you will not be offering next year.
- Keep track of submissions, under-review, and reviewed courses.
- **Check your course list for accuracy.** Add/remove courses on an annual basis so there is an accurate profile of your school's academic and IB offerings. For example, if Spanish IB HL2 is on your course list but you are only offering Spanish IB SL, you should archive HL2. Otherwise, admission reviewers may penalize students in SL as it will appear your students are not taking the most rigorous Spanish course available at your school.

### **Adding IB Diploma Courses to your school's 'a-g' list.**

- Authorized IB Diploma Program Schools can add International Baccalaureate Organization 'a-g' approved courses to their own school's 'a-g' course list without having to prepare a full 'a-g' course submission to UC. UC grants *program status* to select organizations, including IBO, offering standardized high school curriculum. Such approved 'a-g' courses are referred to as *program courses*. Each organization with program status has an established 'a-g' course list composed of the program courses that have earned 'a-g' approval. Program course lists serve as an easy way for any California high school to refer to a program's 'a-g' courses and identify the particular course(s) the school intends to offer to its students. High schools then add a program's 'a-g' course to their own school's 'a-g' course list without having to prepare a full 'a-g' course submission to UC for review. International Baccalaureate Organization Course list: <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist#/list/details/4486>

*In some cases, satisfactory scores on SAT Subject, AP or IB exams can also be used to satisfy the 'a-g' requirements.*

### **FAQ: What if our school wants to offer an IB course that is not on the UC IB Program course list?**

Please contact CAWS if your school wants to offer an IB course that is not on the UC IB Organization Program course list. Individual schools cannot add new IB Program courses on their own; they must be submitted as program courses through the IB Program course portal. It is recommended that new course proposals be submitted early in the Primary Phase 1 application process (February 1-June 30). New courses initially submitted during the Primary Phase have an opportunity to resubmit. The UC 'a-g' guide for honors courses should be closely followed if courses are to be approved. Address the criteria for the subject and use the required submission format. Course proposals that just submit the IB course guide have little chance of approval. Teachers from different IB schools are encouraged to work collaboratively on their course

proposals, and CAWS can help facilitate this. **CAWS offers stipends to teachers who develop and complete new IB course proposals.**

**FAQ: What about major subject and course changes?**

IBO, in collaboration with CAWS, will facilitate new course submissions to UC when there are course subject changes. IBO/CAWS plans to submit these courses for approval this year:

- Digital Society HL2, replacing ITGS. (Digital Society HL1 and SL were approved in 2022.)

The following courses, no longer part of the Diploma Program, will be **removed from the IB Organization Program ‘a-g’ list for 2023-2024.**

- Music Composition SL, Group Performance SL and Solo Performance SL.

**FAQ: Some IB program courses do not receive “honors” designation from UC. Why is this and what can be done about it?**

IBO and CAWS have worked successfully over the last few years to earn UC honors recognition for IB Diploma Program and CP Program courses. Almost all courses now receive honors weight. There are only five courses (Theater Arts IB HL1, Music IB HL1, Geography IB HL1, Economics IB HL1, Business and Management IB HL1) that do not yet earn honors weight. If we can find teachers to assist with these submissions, CAWS will submit these courses for honors weight in the 2023 submission period.

Please contact CAWS if you have teachers who can assist us. CAWS gives stipends to teachers for this work. In addition, schools should consider providing release time to teachers for this important work.

Also note that there are a limited number of honors courses that count toward the UC GPA. The number of UC-designated honors courses receiving the additional grade points is limited to eight semesters or four years. The rigor of a student’s schedule (which includes IB courses) is another factor in admission decisions. Beyond the GPA, schools are urged to emphasize the documented benefits of IB in preparation for college success, including on-time graduation, when communicating with students, parents, and the community about the advantages of the IB Program.

**FAQ: Our school offers an SL course over two years. However, only a few one-year SL courses are on the IB Program ‘a-g’ list.**

IBO, in collaboration with CAWS, is beginning the process of writing and submitting SL Year 1/Preparation courses. There will not be any SL2 titled courses. Instead, students in Year 2 of an SL course should be enrolled in the current UC a-g approved SL course. Using the SL title allows flexibility for schools to offer either a one-year or two-year SL course.

In submitting SL1 courses to UC for approval, here is how courses are described:

“The \_\_\_\_\_SL1/Preparation Course is generally taken in the first year of a student’s two-year IB Diploma Program coursework preparing for culminating exams in May of Year 2. It is intended as a preparation year for students who will be enrolling in \_\_\_\_\_ IB SL. IB SL1/Preparation courses in the IB promote the shared goals of IB and UC to increase access to college-level work for a wider range of students.”

SL1/Preparation Courses will be submitted for UC a-g college-prep credit, but not for Honors credit. This is in line with the IB philosophy of two-year SL courses to offer success in challenging academic work for a range of students.

The following SL Year 1/Preparation courses are on the IB Organization Program a-g list:

Math Analysis and Approaches IB SL1/Preparation Course  
Math Applications and Interpretation IB SL1/Preparation Course

If your school has teachers who can assist with writing other SL1 course submissions, please contact CAWS.

Until additional SL Year 1/Preparation courses are submitted and approved, most DP schools do one of the following:

1. For SL1, use a regular approved school course name and number. For example, a school may use English 3 P for the first year of its IB English SL course. For SL 2, use the IB SL approved course title such as English IB SL. It is similar to schools that offer AP over two years. For example, students may take Biology P for one year, and then AP Biology for year 2.
2. The other option is to enroll all students in HL1 and HL2 courses, and then some students will test at SL instead of HL.

**Schools should NOT use the same course title for more than one year as it will not be accepted by UC. This will disadvantage your students in the college application process.**

**FAQ: Our school wants to offer an AVID-TOK course.**

The following courses were developed in collaboration with AVID and IB and meet curriculum requirements for both programs. Both courses earn honors credit.

- AVID 11/TOK AVID - Advancement Via Individual Determination TOK - Theory of Knowledge
- AVID 12/Theory of Knowledge 1 for grade 12

To add the AVID/TOK courses, go to the AVID Program Course Management Portal and add as a program course. Your school must be an approved AVID and IB DP school to offer the courses. Please contact CAWS if you are interested in curriculum support for the classes.

**FAQ: Our school offers an IB approved school-based syllabus course.**

School-based syllabus courses can be submitted to UC for approval through IB Americas/CAWS using the same process as other IB courses.

**FAQ: Our school offers ab initio language. Why aren't those classes on the IB 'a-g' list?**

IB ab initio courses are not included on the IB Organization Program 'a-g' list. University advocacy by IB Americas and CAWS aims to increase recognition of IB courses as college-level courses deserving of honors weight, and academic credit. This does not apply to ab initio courses which serve a different purpose within the Diploma and Career Programs. There is concern that including ab initio would add confusion to IB course offerings, and thus disadvantage our students and program in terms of college admission and recognition. IB Language B HL and SL courses meet honors criteria and are especially well accepted at UCs. Schools are advised to use regular school course names and numbers for ab initio courses; for example, Mandarin 1 and Mandarin 2. In addition, students can be enrolled in an IB course, such as Spanish IB SL, and still take the ab initio exam if that is their level of language competence and is what their diploma plan recommends.

**FAQ: What about MYP courses?**

There is currently no 'a-g' Program list for grade 9-10 courses in the Middle Years Program. IBO and CAWS are exploring this option as a service to schools. Schools interested in having a list should contact CAWS.

**FAQ: What are other ways to support IB students in college admissions/recognition?**

Use your school profile, student transcripts, student essays and letters of recommendation to highlight key aspects of IB Programs that are of value to colleges. Track and publicize data on your students' college and career readiness, and college retention/success. IBO can provide excellent studies and data on the value of an IB education. Schools are also encouraged to build local relationships with their UC, CSU, and Community College campuses.

**FAQ: What about credit for the IB diploma and IB examinations?**

*UC awards students who complete the IB diploma with a score of 30 or above with 6 quarter (4 semester) units toward their UC degree, in addition to the units earned for individual Higher Level exams (usually 24 quarter/16 semester units). Students who receive IB certificates with scores of 5, 6 or 7 on Higher Level exams will receive 8 quarter (5.3 semester) units. For more information: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/exam-credit/index.html>*

Designated examinations are awarded elective units which may be applied to UC graduation requirements for specific subjects and/or for general education/breadth requirements, as determined by each campus.

The CSU system awards college credit for IB exams with scores of 4 or 5, depending on the subject. <https://www.calstate.edu/apply/transfer/pages/international-baccalaureate-ib.aspx>. Some campuses also award credit for SL exams. Please refer to **individual campus** websites for more information on their credit policies.

California Community Colleges generally follow the CSU policy although individual campuses have also adopted their own policies with additional credits/recognition.

Currently, there is no special recognition policy for students who complete the full CP or earn the Bilingual Diploma. Schools can include them in their school profiles and assist their students in highlighting these achievements in their college applications.

IBO is prioritizing better recognition policies in the California higher education system. Individual schools are also encouraged to advocate with their local UC, CSU, and Community College campuses for better recognition policies as each institution has a fair amount of autonomy regarding academic policy and curriculum. Generally, it is the **Academic Senate** (governing body of the faculty) at each institution that makes the policy. Another good place for advocacy is if your school has connections with state legislators, or with members of the UC Board of Regents, the CSU Board of Trustees, or the California Community College Board of Governors.